

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 22, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro, Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Granger, and Vice Chairman Shelby:

Thank you for your continued work to craft appropriations legislation for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23), and your investments in climate mitigation in the Fiscal Year 2022 omnibus legislation. We write today to request that you build on those investments by adopting a climate preparedness and mitigation strategy to scale up these investments and prioritize funding for climate preparedness in FY23 appropriations.

As you know, our state of Colorado has seen countless natural disasters over recent years, with the most recent Marshall Fire destroying over 1,000 homes in Boulder County, Colorado, and becoming the most destructive fire in Colorado history. In 2021, the United States experienced 20 disasters where the damage cost at least \$1 billion, the second-highest number of billion-dollar disasters in one year, only behind the 22 disasters experienced in 2020<sup>1</sup>. As a result of climate change, we will only continue to see these natural disasters increase in severity and intensity in Colorado, throughout the United States and the world. We must urgently invest in climate adaptation and mitigation so that our communities are prepared for these impacts.

The National Institute of Building Sciences found that every \$1 spent on federal mitigation grants saves an average of \$6 for the federal government<sup>2</sup>. We must invest more in mitigation and preparedness efforts to protect homeowners and communities, and reduce costs to the federal government by working to prevent the hardships impacted communities face after the loss of their homes, businesses, and livelihoods.

As you work on legislation for FY23 across each of the 12 Appropriations Subcommittees, we ask that you make addressing climate change a priority by maintaining or scaling up funding for climate adaptation and mitigation—including, but not limited to, the programs below.

- In the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, this includes robust funding for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which supports agricultural producers to mitigate against the impacts of climate change and funds critical post-disaster watershed protection and recovery programs.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/beyond-data/2021-us-billion-dollar-weather-and-climate-disasters-historical#:~:text=Damages%20from%20the%202021%20disasters,Western%20wildfires%20\(%2410.9%20billion\).](https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/beyond-data/2021-us-billion-dollar-weather-and-climate-disasters-historical#:~:text=Damages%20from%20the%202021%20disasters,Western%20wildfires%20(%2410.9%20billion).)

<sup>2</sup> [http://2021.nibs.org/files/pdfs/ms\\_v4\\_overview.pdf](http://2021.nibs.org/files/pdfs/ms_v4_overview.pdf)

- In the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, this includes increasing funding for the National Science Foundation—which received \$8.84 billion in FY22—and our federal research institutions, such as those housed within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), to continue conducting critical research on the impacts of climate change.
- In the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee, this includes increases for the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy—which was funded at a level of \$3.2 billion in FY22—to support research and technologies to advance energy efficiency, reduce emissions, and strengthen the reliability of our electric grid. This also includes the important work of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), researching and advancing clean technologies and energy systems in our home state of Colorado. It is critical we continue to increase these investments in FY23.
- In the Homeland Security Subcommittee, this includes increasing funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants to ensure our first responders are equipped for these disasters. In FY22, these programs received a combined total of \$720 million, which we should continue to build on in FY23. We also should provide increased funding for FEMA’s Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program, and ensure adequate funding in FEMA’s Disaster Relief Fund to support the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program.
- In the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, we should continue to provide increased funding to build on the \$5.48 billion provided for the Wildland Fire Management Account across the Departments of Interior and Agriculture in FY22; and increase funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support their work providing clean air and water and measuring and reducing emissions.
- In the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, this includes funding to reduce emissions in our transportation sector, and increased funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Community Development Block Grant, which helps communities consider and mitigate climate impacts and risks for low-income residents. We also should provide increased funding for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery and Mitigation which supports communities as they recover from and mitigate against future disasters.

As you craft your respective FY23 appropriations bills, we ask you to prioritize funding for programs that support climate mitigation, preparedness, and resilience for our states and communities across all subcommittees.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



Michael F. Bennet  
U.S. Senator